

Applicants : Nancy Carrasco, Ge Dai and Orle Levy  
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Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 71-75 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please amend claims 56 and 63 as set forth below.

1-55. (Canceled)

BS 56. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether ~~detecting expression~~ of a mammalian sodium/iodide symporter is expressed in a mammalian tissue, the method comprising contacting nucleic acid from the mammalian tissue with a nucleic acid probe which can hybridize to a portion of the nucleotide sequence ~~contained in~~ Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:1) set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein detecting hybridization of the nucleic acid probe to the nucleotide sequence indicates that the mammalian sodium/iodide symporter is expressed in the mammalian tissue.

57. (Previously Added) The method of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid from the mammalian tissue is mRNA.

58. (Previously Added) The method of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid from the mammalian tissue is mRNA made into cDNA.

59. (Previously Added) The method of claim 56, wherein the mammalian tissue is non-thyroid tissue.

60. (Previously Added) The method of claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid probe further comprises a label.

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61. (Previously Added) The method of claim 60, wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive label, biotin, and a fluorescent probe.

62. (Previously Added) The method of claim 56, wherein the tissue is a human tissue.

*R.* 63. (Currently Amended) A method for determining whether ~~detecting~~ a mammalian sodium/iodide symporter is present in a sample, the method comprising contacting the sample with an antibody that is immunoreactive with the mammalian sodium/iodide symporter ~~and determining whether~~, wherein detecting binding of the antibody bound to a the mammalian sodium/iodide symporter indicates that the mammalian sodium/iodide symporter is present in the sample.

64. (Previously Added) The method of claim 63, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

65. (Previously Added) The method of claim 63, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

66. (Previously Added) The method of claim 63, wherein the antibody is labeled.

67. (Previously Added) The method of claim 63, wherein the sample is a mammalian tissue.

68. (Previously Added) The method of claim 67, wherein the mammalian tissue is thyroid tissue.

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69. (Previously Added) The method of claim 67, wherein the mammalian tissue is non-thyroid tissue.

70. (Previously Added) The method of claim 67, wherein the mammalian tissue is human tissue.

71-75. (Canceled)